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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/848,164	05/03/2001	Peter R. Rhode	46146-C (71758)	1034

21874 7590 11/25/2002

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EXAMINER

DECLOUX, AMY M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1644

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/848,164	RHODE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Amy M. DeCloux	1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 29-31,35-37,43-48 and 52-87 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 29-31,35-37,43-48,52,56,64,65,70 and 77-87 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 53-55,57-63,66-69 and 71-76 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's Amendment filed 9-16-02 (Paper No. 7) is acknowledged and has been entered.

Claim Objections

MAINTAINED Applicant is advised that should claim 63 be found allowable, claim 76 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

MAINTAINED Claims 69 and 71-72 are objected to because of the following informalities: The recitation of "The complex of claim 66" in dependent claims 69 and 71-72 is inconsistent with the recitation of "The MHC complex of claim 66" as recited in dependent claim 67. Appropriate correction is required.

The objections were not addressed by Applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

MAINTAINED Claims 53-55, 57-63, 66-69 and 71-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 53-55, 57-63, 66-69 and 71-76 are not supported by the specification or by the claims as originally filed. There is no support in the specification or claims as originally filed for the recitation of a single chain class II molecule or a single chain MHC class II-peptide complex comprising a class II beta chain and a class II alpha chain, wherein one or both of said chains are "truncated compared to the full length chain". There is no written description of the claimed invention in the specification or claims as originally filed. Thus the claimed invention constitutes **new matter**.

Applicant is invited to point out support.

Response to Arguments

Applicant traverses the rejection on the grounds that the specification supports the pending claims and contends that that the featured peptide binding groove is described on page 1

of the specification, that multivalent MHC molecules are supported by page 29 of the specification, and that tagged molecules are disclosed on pages 36-37 of the specification, which the examiner does not dispute; Applicant further contends that truncated MHC molecules are described on pages 23-24 of the specification which by itself the examiner does not disagree. But said pages do not appear to support the limitation of the truncated molecules when presented in the full context of the claims, which also include the limitation of lacking a functional transmembrane domain. It is noted that a non-functional domain can be created by substitution as well as by deletion of amino acids.

The outstanding 112 second paragraph rejections and the double patenting rejections have been withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendment and terminal disclaimer.

However a new grounds of rejection necessitated by amendment has been applied.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 66-69 and 71-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 66-69 and 71-76 are indefinite in their recitation of the phrase a single chain MHC Class-II peptide, as recited in lines 1-2 of claim 66 and dependent claims 67-69 and 71-76, because it is not clear what is meant by said phrase. One way to overcome the rejection is to insert the word --complex-- between the word "peptide" and the word "comprising" in line 1 of claim 66, which was the recitation before the amendment filed 9-16-02.

No Claim is allowed.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amy M. DeCloud whose telephone number is 703 306-5821. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on 703 308-3973. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 305-3014 for regular communications and 703 872-9307 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-0196.

Amy DeCloud, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner,
November 21, 2002

Patrick J. Nolan
Patrick J. Nolan, Ph.D.
Primary Patent Examiner,
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